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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/455,807	12/07/1999	John Beezer	3797.84618	5593
28319	7590	12/30/2003	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF LTD., ATTORNEYS FOR MICROSOFT 1001 G STREET , N.W. ELEVENTH STREET WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597			SAX, STEVEN PAUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	
DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/455,807	Applicant(s) Beezer et al
	Examiner Steve Sax	Art Unit 2174
		
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status <p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>RCE and amendment, entered 8/11/03</u>.</p> <p>2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.</p>		
Disposition of Claims <p>4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-30</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-30</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>		
Application Papers <p>9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p> <p>11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.</p> <p>12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 <p>13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>		
<p>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p> <p>14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.</p> <p>15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.</p>		
Attachment(s) <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). <u>22</u></p> <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>		

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. The RCE and amendment filed 8/11/03 have been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rivette et al (6389434) and Strahorn et al (5933140)

4. Regarding claim 1, Rivette et al show a computer implemented method for annotating a system (abstract, Figures 6a, 7a-b, 20, column 4 lines 1-10). The system has a display for displaying an immutable (non-modifiable) page of a document having objects (column 10 lines 17-25, column 9 lines 27-40). The system receives an indication that an object is to be annotated in the page of the document (column 11 lines 10-20, Figures 15, 16, 17, column 12 lines 45-50), and provides a window to the user having a portion for receiving the annotation of the object and

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a portion for allowing navigation to another object annotation (column 11 lines 33-38, 43-48, 55-65, column 12 lines 43-68, column 13 lines 29-35). Rivette et al do not show directly navigating to the other annotation, but rather go through the object. Nevertheless, Rivette et al mention efficient navigation of sub-notes. Furthermore, Strahorn show efficient navigation of help sub-notes by direct navigation between the sub-notes (Figure 3, column 4 lines 8-30 and 45-59). It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to have the direct navigation between the annotations, because it would provide an efficient navigation of sub-notes.

5. Regarding claim 2, the system receives a selection of the object and a menu item is selected to provide the window (for example Figures 9, 16, column 14 lines 15-24).

6. Regarding claim 3, the system receives user input and displays another annotation (column 13 lines 10-15).

7. Regarding claim 4, the non modifiable document page is maintained irrespective of the annotation display (column 15 lines 15-26).

8. Regarding claims 5-6, multiple annotations may be made, in which then multiple non modifiable pages are displayed which may overlie (column 11 lines 25-50, Figure 30, 31b, 32, column 15 lines 35-47, column 17 lines 14-24).

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9. Claims 13-18 have the same features as above and are rejected for the same reasons.

10. Regarding claim 25, in addition to the aforementioned, note the storage device (column 9 lines 58-68) which implicitly determines the file position of the object I order to access it (column 10 lines 1-7).

11. Regarding claim 28, in addition to the reasons given for claim 25, note also the data fields (column 19 lines 30-60).

12. Regarding claim 7, in addition to the aforementioned, Rivette et al do not specifically mention displaying an indication that the text annotation has been stored in conjunction with an object on the non modifiable page, but as shown above the annotation is displayed in conjunction with an object on the page. The system also has storage capabilities and furthermore retrieves and loads annotations (column 12 lines 60-68 and column 13 lines 1-16) in an organized way. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to store the annotation with the object on the page, because it would provide a convenient way to later retrieve and load the annotations in an organized way.

13. Regarding claim 8, the position of the object is determined (Figures 7a, 8, 9, 10). It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to store the position and

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annotation in a separate area from the document, because it would provide a convenient way to later retrieve the information in an organized way.

14. Regarding claims 9 and 10, note the stylus and mouse (column 10 lines 28-32, column 14 lines 30-38).

15. Regarding claims 11 and 12, in addition to the aforementioned, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to count bytes to determine the position of the object, because it would provide a thorough way to track a position for later retrieval. This may be accomplished by counting bytes from the beginning of the page to the annotation, using another object as a middle point.

16. Claims 19-20 show the same features as above and are rejected for the same reasons. In addition, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to store the annotation and position in a modifiable portion of the document, because it would provide convenient retrieval to mutually modifiable portions.

17. Claims 21-24 and 26-27, 29-30 show the same features as above and are rejected for the same reasons.

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18. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Steve Sax at telephone number (703) 305-9582.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Sax whose telephone number is (703) 305-9582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

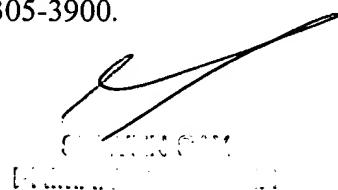
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306

Official Communication

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



A handwritten signature is written over a typed name. The typed name is partially visible at the bottom of the signature.